
JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 11, #4

Winter



2001



1900-S
Half Dollar with Major die
Crack over date
From: Bill Harris

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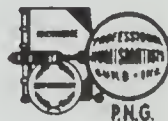
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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This message appears in the last issue dated 2000 but is being written on January 4th, 2001. The unmatched F.U.N. show begins today and should be the venue of several BCCS members. No, I am not one of these fortunate individuals (the 40 inches of snow that have fallen in northern IL seem to be a magnet for me!).

I am surprised at the rather limited number of Email messages I received from members responding to a call to form an Email communication list. Please consider participating now and send your address. If individuals see some undesirable aspect of this, please share your thoughts and I'll do my best to address them. The idea of such an electronic member list seemed to have many supporters at the Philadelphia ANA.

I learned only this morning of the tragic death of Helen Carmody, the immediate Past VP of ANA. Numismatics has many fine individuals, Helen was one of these and her loss is a sad note.

As discussed in the last issue, Russell Easterbrooks will step down from the position of Journal editor effective with his publishing this issue. I wish to thank Russell for his fine efforts in this endeavor beginning with coming forward to accept this task. At this point, we have no candidate willing to take over this job. I have talked to Paul Reuter and Steve Szczerbiak and a few longtime contributors to the Journal but no name has surfaced as a candidate. Two weeks ago, I placed a notice in the electronic newsletter of the *Numismatic Bibliomania Society* (i.e., The E-Sylum) and await a possible response from collectors of numismatic literature. Shortly, I'll place a display ad in *Coin World* and expand this search. Obviously, the best candidate for this role is someone who loves and knows Barbers (in some relative sense), someone who is likely a member reading this issue. I again commit to supporting anyone who would consider doing this task. Russell leaves the post of editor in fine shape with an individual doing the typesetting and printing. He also leaves with the fine accomplishment of producing some 16 issues containing significant and enjoyable content.

Please note my new home phone number and address on page one; I welcome any contact on Society matters.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the winter Journal. As many of you know this will be my last Journal as your editor. Phil will be helping with the next Journal until a new editor is in place. Send your articles, and letters to Phil, his address is on the first page of the Journal. If your interested and have the time (about 8 hours per Journal) the editor's job is very rewarding. I work with a local printer who is wonderful to work with and does a first rate job. Assembling the Journal, and presenting articles, pictures and other information is very enjoyable. It does take time however, which I simply can't do any more, though I'm happy to answer questions and give advice if needed. I hope to continue to find time to write articles, which I enjoy very much.

Our society is healthy and well recognized in the numismatic community, so continued success involves member input, and an informative Journal. As a charter member of our society, I look forward to continued success.

The present Journal contains many interesting articles, and a special thanks to all that submitted articles for this, and past journals.

Russell Easterbrooks

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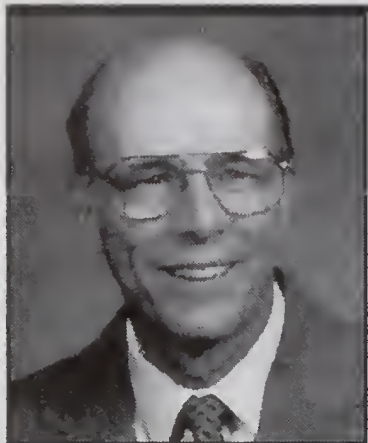
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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

A long time member recently wrote saying he was concerned about the future of the Barber society. The idea of dropping from four Journals per year to three did not appeal to him and I guess the reason is obvious but he realizes the volume of articles submitted determines in large part the size and frequency of the Journals. He asked me to give some background as to membership levels through the years and anything else that would bring everyone up to date. I'll try.

First of all, the first Journal was labeled "Spring 1989" and since that Journal, 43 more have been published. Incidentally, most of them are still available as back issues. Early Journals were filled with more material than has been the case lately. As I look back through my collection of Journals, I am impressed by how many different people have submitted articles. But the older members start to run out of ideas and using myself as an example, I have submitted at least six articles on the subject of die breaks. I also did several articles on Liberty nickels. I can't write much more without repeating myself and I guess older members have the same problem.

I became treasurer in 1990, but I didn't assume the secretary role until a few years later so I don't have a complete history from that standpoint. However, as best as I can tell the first 200 or so members were considered charter members. When the Society was new, it attracted much attention and shortly the membership grew to over 400 members. Several years later we hit a rough patch and the Journal didn't come out as it should have. This led to a drop in membership and the big number was never again reached. So for the last 4 or 5 years the membership level has been from 250 to 300 or an average of 275, which is about where we are now. This number is sufficient financially to maintain the Society.

There must be any number of reasons but the reality is about half the people who join the Society only stay with us for one year. Thus over the 11 year period more than 1000 people have been members at one time or another. Currently approximately 75 charter members are still with us. In the middle years new sign-ups were slow but that has improved in the last few years as we have had some nice publicity that has attracted memberships. Still even here about half just give us a year. No doubt greater Journal content would improve that somewhat. Incidentally, dealers do help us, and besides ads, at least 20 dealers are members of the Society.

I did this once before but it may bear repeating. At one time or another, we had at least one member from each of the 50 states, but we currently have members from 44 states and here are the leaders: CA 31, OH 21, IL 20, NY 13,

Continued on page 19

A Partial Study of Barber Halves with Die Cracks

by Bill Harris

As background, during the production of the significant number of coins produced by each set of dies (one for the obverse design and one for the reverse design) a tremendous amount of stamping pressure and stress must be absorbed by each die. Depending on the coin design, there will generally be some point when this stress creates a crack in the surface of the die. When this crack occurs, the normal flow of metal from the coin planchet gets forced into this flawed area creating a raised jagged ridge on the face of the struck coin. Continued use of the dies would generally result in the further deterioration of the flawed area and more extreme die cracks. The later the die state, the more visible the damage becomes until at some point the flawed die is removed from production.

To provide some idea of the stamping pressure and speed associated with the production of Barber halves, I went back to an article written by Russell Easterbrooks in **BCCS Journal Volume V, #1 - Summer 1993**. In this article, based on information included in an 1896 Mint Report, he reported that Barber halves were struck at a pressure of 110 tons and at an average rate of 80 coins per minute.

Within the Barber halves series there are many high grade examples (generally XF, AU and MS) of the various dates that exhibit light to significant dies cracks. By no means do I want to imply that visible die cracks are limited to these grades, because that is obviously not true, but I would suggest that at circulated condition grades below XF/AU that minor hairline die cracks are no longer visible and at the G/VG grade levels only the most significant of die cracks can be seen.

Reading through past Barber Journals, I sense that the general consensus has been that of the three Barber series (dimes, quarters and halves) the frequency of documented/observed die cracks has been fewest in the halves. At this point, I don't yet want to offer an opinion on the above statement because I think we are just beginning to get below the surface on documentation of die cracks. My initial thoughts are that possibly because there are less high grade Barber halves out there to study and possibly because of the higher cost associated with purchasing the typical high grade Barber half that less research time has been spent on the study of the Barber halves versus the dimes and quarters and we therefore may inadvertently be biasing any conclusions.

The partial study I am documenting with this article is based on the review of my notes and drawings on 55 AU halves that I have either owned at one time or currently own but it unfortunately covers only 50 of the 74 coins in the series

Continued on next page

A Partial Study of Barber Halves with Die Cracks

Continued from page 5

(73 regular issues plus the micro-o). Surprisingly, it turned up the following 19 dates with identifiable die cracks:

1892 micro-o

Obverse - distinguishing faint die crack beginning below star 1 and continuing through the base of the date. No other die cracks appear elsewhere on the coin. As information, the die crack is not observable on a fine specimen.

1893

Obverse - from the dentils below star 13 through the bottom of the 3 and 9 in the date.

Reverse - from dentils through right half of M in America to tip of right wing and a second crack present across the tops of the R, I and C in America.

1893 - O

Reverse - across the bases of T, E and S in States.

1893-S

Reverse - from middle of the F in Of through corner of A and below M to the scroll, to the right wing and then through the bases of R, I and C in America.

1894 - O

Reverse - from star 13 through tip of the neck to the middle of the 4 in the date.

1894-S

Obverse - from star 8 to star 9.

Reverse - from top of D in Dollar to the end of the olive branch, a second crack from bottom of D in Dollar to the dentils below the right edge of the F in Half and a third crack between the tops of the L and F in Half.

1896-S

Reverse - along tops of the A and R in Dollar.

1897

Obverse - beginning between star 2 and 3 passing through stars 3, 4, 5 and 6 and across the tops of the letters I and N in In, after a slight disconnection the crack reappears from the dentils between the N and the G in In God and continues across the tops of all the letters in God and ends at the top of the W in We. Another crack appears on the right outside edge of stars 8 through 10. Obviously from the damage, this is an example of a later die state.

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A Partial Study of Barber Halves with Die Cracks

Continued from page 6

Reverse - die crack connects the tops of the first four letters in States, a second crack from dentils to top of O in Of, another from dentils to the right side of the M in America and yet another from the dentils above the R through the tops of the I and C in America.

1898

Reverse - a V-shaped die crack from the tip of the farthest right feather in the grouping of arrows to the top of the first L in Dollar to the right edge of the center feather in the eagles tail.

1898-O

Obverse - from star 13 to the right base of the neck.

1898-S

Reverse - from middle feather in grouping of arrows below the mintmark to the middle of the top of the D in Dollar and a second die crack from the left side of the E Pluribus scroll to the edge of the left wing of the eagle directly below the D in United.

1899-S

Obverse - beginning in the base of the neck above the 8 in the date along the base of the neck through the top of star 1 and the bottom of star 2 and into the dentils beside star 2.

1900-S

In my opinion, probably the issue with the most significant die cracks in the series. Previously pictured in **BCCS Journal Vol. VI, #2 - Summer 1995**, page 15 and **BCCS Journal Vol. 11, #1 - Summer 2000**, pages 10 & 11.

Obverse - from the dentils to the right of star 13 across the lower side of that star to the base of the neck, completely across the base of the neck above the initial B and through star 1 until it reaches the denils to the left of star 1. A separate branch from this crack branches off the main crack to the top right side of the final 0 in the date. The second crack starts at the top of the hair ribbon to the left of star 3 and passes through stars 4, 5 and 6. The third crack runs along the inside edges of stars 7 through 13.

Reverse - from the left wing below the D in United to the left edge of the E Pluribus scroll. Minor cracks also appear between the S and O and F and A in States of America. The final crack starts in the middle of the last A in America passes to the left of the dot into the tops of the R and A in Dollar and then through the base of the second L into the dentils below the second L.

Continued on next page

A Partial Study of Barber Halves with Die Cracks

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Again, this is an obvious later die state example and one can only wonder how much more damage could be done to this particular die before it was pulled from production. A photograph by Tom Mulvaney of one of the obverse die cracks accompanies this article.

1901-S

Obverse - from the dentils to the right of star 7 through star 8 and to the outside edge of star 9. A second crack from star 13 through the tip of the neck to the base of the final 1 in the date.

1903-O

Obverse - from right tip of neck to the base of the 3 in the date. Another crack begins in the top of the last T in Trust and passes through the right edges of stars 7, 8 and 9 and then terminates in the dentils between stars 9 and 10. Accompanying the last die crack is a second crack on the inner edges of the stars 7, 8 and 9.

1906-D

Obverse - faint crack from star 13 to the tip of the neck. A fine crack runs from the dentils between stars 5 and 6 to the middle of star 6. Another crack initiates in the dentils above the O in God, runs across the top of the D to the top of the W in We. The most significant crack begins in the top of the last T in Trust and passes through the right edges of stars 7, 8 and 9 and then terminates in the dentils between stars 9 and 10. There is a separate minor branch in this crack between stars 7 and 8 which goes to the center of star 8. Note how the most significant crack on this coin almost perfectly matches a similar crack on the 1903-O.

Reverse - fine crack connect the tops of the F and D in Half Dollar and a second crack connects the tops of the R and I in America.

1907-D

Obverse - from star 13 through the tip of the neck and halfway to the 7 in the date.

1912

Obverse - from star 13 to the tip of the neck.

1912-S

Obverse - from star 13 through the tip of the neck to the middle of the 2 in the date.

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A Partial Study of Barber Halves with Die Cracks

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For those of you who have only recently started a Barber collection or for those of you that haven't taken advantage of a rainy weekend to carefully inspect the obverse and reverse sides of your Barbers with a 10X to 16X magnifying glass, please take the time to examine your coins. You will add another dimension to the enjoyment of Barber collecting and at the same time you will undoubtedly discover die cracks, repunched dates, repunched mintmarks, and possibly a misplaced date or rotated die. Take the time to learn the character traits of your coins don't be satisfied with filling an album hole or crossing off a line on a checklist. I guarantee that if you have the patience and curiosity to learn all you can about Barber coins that in the end you will be rewarded many times over by the enjoyment derived from collecting these coins.

Also when attending coin shows take the time to examine Barbers for some of these aforementioned items, in the vast majority of cases you can purchase these features for no additional premium.

I look forward to reading about your discoveries in future Barber Journals.

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Philadelphia Barber Quarters Often Overlooked

by Robert Wetherell

BCCS # 1300

Many Barber enthusiasts are actively engaged in building sets of Barber dimes, quarters or halves. As we all know, some of the coins can be quite pricey, in the higher circulated grades, and can make a dent in the numismatic budget quite quickly. Taking into consideration the mint marked coins of each series can really put a strain on the average numismatist's budget. While most of us would like to complete our sets in the highest grades possible, practicality often intervenes, and, generally, most numismatists of average means settle for lower circulated grades to complete their sets. Also worth mentioning is the fact that many of the coins in each series are extremely hard to find in nice, problem free condition in the higher circulated grades.

So then, what to do? One of the nice things about our hobby is the fact that we can build a set as we please, there are no hard, fast "rules" to the game. With that in mind, consider that for a very reasonable cost to the average numismatist, a nice set of AU Barber Quarters from the Philadelphia Mint can be built relatively easily with a little persistence and patience. In building this set, which comprises 25 coins, there is a lot of good value to be found in nice, problem free AU coins.

According to David Lawrence, in the *Complete Guide to Barber Quarters 2nd edition*, most of the Philadelphia Mint Quarters have a rarity factor of either R1 (Common) or R2 (slightly better date), which means they are out there to be found with a bit of searching. As in the complete set, there are 3 keys to this short set, the 1904 (R3 - a better date), 1910 (R3) and the 1913 with an R4 (scarce) rating.

Of course the "key" to this short set is the 1913 with mintage at 484,000. At current Coin World trends prices this books at \$525 in AU SO. This is quite reasonable considering that the 1909S-VDB with the exact same mintage is currently \$650 in AUS0 condition.

The current trends of the two "semi keys" the 1904 and 1910 are \$125 and \$140 respectively. Otherwise, the rest of the dates in this short set show trends in the \$110 to \$135 range with the average trend price being a very reasonable \$130 in AU SO. When buying, insist on nice-problem free, uncleaned coins, many are also available with attractive toning.

I believe building this short set still affords a nice challenge, and may be a nice alternative to a complete set, which may be "out of reach" to many of us in terms of budgetary constraints in completing and finding a AU full set of coins.

My 1909 O/Inverted D Story - NOT!

. By Lindsay Ashburn

As a Barber dime variety enthusiast, coins with subtle differences get my attention, coins with not so subtle differences excite me, and rare coins with unheard of differences trigger obsession I cannot begin to explain.

Let's talk about last summer. I had heard reports of a 1909 O/Inverted D dime variety, but never has seen one and never had talked to anyone who had seen one. Of course, I had seen grainy pictures that could have been just about anything, certainly not the quality photograph I needed for attribution comparison. The literature I found mentioned a VF that sold in the early 1970's then surfaced again in the Allen Lovejoy sale in 1991. When I saw a cleaned Fine appear in Heritage's auction last fall, my desire was rekindled. There was a grainy photo online and the cataloger's description to go on now (not a lot, but more than I had before). The bidding on this coin left me in the dust, and I wanted this coin more now than ever before.



Pretty soon I saw an online auction listing for a VG 1909 O/O dime and realized I had no reference that listed such a variety. I figured the worst scenario would be that I paid a few bucks too much for a coin with simple mechanical doubling. The other possibilities would be an unlisted rpm or the elusive O/Inverted D. Either of these would be worth the premium, and the gamble, so I end up with the coin for about \$10.

I studied the coin over and over. It looked like mechanical doubling to the west, but there was a straight vertical line in the middle of the mintmark. How could that be? I never satisfactorily answered this question for myself. I must've

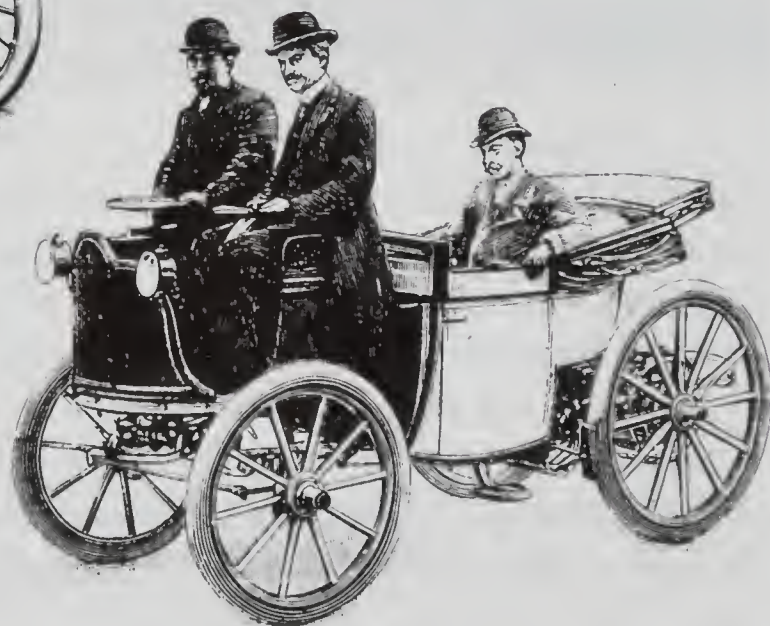
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My 1909 O/Inverted D Story - NOT!

Continued from page 11

looked a hundred times for evidence of serifs on the right side, but there was none. I sent the coin to PCI for a second opinion, and their response was "strike doubled at mintmark." Terribly disappointed, I continued to study the coin, convincing myself that it had to be more than that. Eventually I sent the coin to SEGS for a third opinion, and their response was "strike doubling on mintmark." Total devastation set in, but I am okay now. I still have the coin, and can't imagine selling it. This one coin drove me through more emotions than any other coin ever. Finally I came back down to earth, still mildly disappointed, but one experience closer to being a seasoned collector.

So there you have it, a slabbed VG8 1909 O dime. Nothing more, nothing less. Be aware there are probably others out there, and they can be readily mistaken for the notorious over-mintmark variety. I am not an expert, by a long shot, but I am not a beginning collector either. This coin looks very convincing.



Excuse Me, Ma'am — May I Please Have THAT Coin?

By Dan Sorkowitz

I am a newcomer both to the BCCS and Barber coin collecting. Actually, at this point I really don't consider myself a truly passionate Barber collector, since this new interest is a sideline to my main collecting focus — British tokens and American copper. This new collecting area is certainly quite different from my existing ones, but I do have very good reasons for choosing it. I began collecting Barber half dollars in VG for several reasons that seemed quite sensible.

1. I tend to buy tokens and early copper by mail from a few dealers that I have come to know and trust over the years. I remember the old caution, "Don't take copper from strangers." However, for some reason, I feel comfortable buying VG silver coins at stores and shows, and most dealers have some Barber halves in their inventories. I enjoy attending local shows and visiting dealers when I travel.
2. There are no "stoppers" in the half dollar series; I can complete it. I know that many people will say, "Oh yeah, what about the Micro O?" Perhaps I am naïve, but since I am not interested in collecting varieties, the Micro O is not necessary to complete my collecting goals.
3. Because Barber halves are a sideline interest, VG seems to be a perfect grade for me. Good has too little detail to be satisfying and Fine is exponentially more expensive. VG seems to be a bargain.
4. Putting together a nice set of Barber halves in VG is affordable, challenging, and fun. I have always liked middle and lower grade coins in choice original condition. To say the least, finding Barber halves in VG grade and choice condition requires some really serious searching.
5. Collecting Barber halves brings back many pleasant memories. As a kid in the 1950s collecting from circulation, finding a Barber coin was a cause for rejoicing. I not only searched my change (what little I had), and that of my parents and their friends, but also would peer into open cash drawers at supermarkets, five and dime stores, and my school cafeteria looking for the flash of Miss Liberty's face or those distinctive eagles. I always carried an extra quarter with me just in case I got lucky.

And I did get lucky once in a while. I still have my 16th edition of the "Blue Book" (1958) that I used as a checklist. The following is a list of the Barber

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Excuse Me, Ma'am – May I Please Have THAT Coin?

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coins that I managed to pull from circulation in West Virginia from about 1953 until 1957. I found no additional coins after that latter date.

- Nickels — 1895, 1899, 1912
- Dimes — 1898, 1900, 1901, 1904, 1908D, 1911, 1912D, 1914
- Quarters — 1893O, 1898, 1903, 1904, 1907D, 1909D, 1910D, 1914D, 1915, 1916, 1916D
- Halves — 1895O, 1905S, 1906, 1907D

I sold my entire collection while a college student in the 1960s, but I would guess that these Barbers graded from Good to Very Good.

I began my current search for VG Barber halves in June 2000, and have begun to receive a very interesting education. These darn things are hard to find! If I were collecting in Good, I would be nearly done by now, but VG is very elusive. Furthermore, many dealers overgrade Barbers as much as they do copper. I have found that Good Barbers are frequently offered by dealers as VG. There is nothing surprising about this, but I am surprised that I have managed to purchase quite a few “slider” Fines at VG prices. I have also discovered that the huge majority of VG coins have problems — stains, rim dings, polishing, severe cleaning, or scratches. In short, these poor coins have seen both heavy use and abuse. As a result, I have decided to purchase coins in average plus condition as well as choice. However, I am making progress. As of December 2000, I have bought 41 coins, about half of them at the ANA convention in Philadelphia. My earliest half is 1897; those 19th century coins are super tough.

I knew that collecting these halves would be challenging, but I have learned that it is much more difficult than I assumed it would be. I have also learned that choice coins often carry choice prices. And I was right — it is fun. I continue my quest. Maybe I'll be able to give you a cheery update sometime.

By the way, those dimes are beginning to look awfully tempting.

BCCS ADVERTISEMENT RATES					
1/8 page	1 issue	\$12	4 issues	\$40	
1/4 page	1 issue	\$20	4 issues	\$70	
1/2 page	1 issue	\$30	4 issues	\$100	
1 page	1 issue	\$70	4 issues	\$250	
1 page inside front or rear cover		1 issue	\$80	4 issues	\$300
1 page outside rear cover		1 issue	\$125	4 issues	\$400

A World-Class Collection of Barber Quarters

by Glenn J. Church

[Note from the president: BCCS Member Church sent this article as a handwritten manuscript to Editor Russell Easterbrooks last Fall. It was not suitable for publication in the previous issue of the Journal that appeared before the sale of his collection. I discussed the article with Glenn and indicated I would edit and otherwise make the manuscript suitable for publication. I've attempted to include Glenn's thoughts and memories of his coins although certain quotes and descriptions attributed to others are omitted. Phil Carrigan, President]

I write this article to introduce you to my uncirculated collection of Barber Quarters. I've collected Barber coinage for approximately 15 years and my mint state quarter collection contains 74 of the 75 issued coins.

This is not a commercial article; it's a rendering of my heart and an expression of my love of this fine collection. My collection is complete except for one coin, which I may or may not acquire [i.e. 1901-S]. Most of these coins went to Hawaiian Royalty and some day these coins will flood the market, thus depressing the value.

I've written three articles for the BCCS Journal, and this has been a source of pride. One article concerned the sale of the Eliasberg Barber quarters. I went to see what was represented as a complete set while in my opinion it was only 67% complete. My article also stated that after I saw the Eliasberg coins, it made me appreciate my collection all the more. [1997]

You'll be able to see my collection on display and see it sell at auction at the FUN show in January 2001. The fact that the collection has many expensive coins does not mean that there are not some coins in the price range for many collectors.

In forming my Barber quarter set, I have a great deal of gratitude for the following individuals:

1. Dave Lawrence (*David Lawrence Rare Coins*, Virginia Beach) — a most knowledgeable person and member of BCCS. He has great enthusiasm for his profession and was always fair to his buyers. He is responsible for 16 of the coins in this collection.
2. Chris Napolitano (*Summit Rare Coin*, Minnesota) — gave me good advice and found me good coins at reasonable prices.
3. Doug Winter — expert like the foregoing persons, helped me in the search for my collection and was always fair with me. He came to my home and helped me with appreciating and discovering exceptional things that enhanced the value of my coins. He is responsible for 14 of the coins in my collection.

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A World-Class Collection of Barber Quarters

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Other persons and companies also contributed to my collection. They know who they are. My regrets to all of them — I was picky with coins and sent many coins back to them. This did not make me popular but it did get the quality into the collection. I like brilliant coins and also beautiful toning.

Now to discuss some of the highlights.

1892	NGC-66	I paid 50% overbid for this coin. It should upgrade as it has a great reverse. I believe it to be the nicest Type I reverse.
1893	PCGS-66 PQ	Col. Gene Edwards says full strikes, difficult to find.
1893-S	PCGS-66	PL cameo
1894-O	NGC-65	Coin ex James Stack collection May 1989. One of 9 at MS 65. Chris Napolitano says most beautifully toned coin I've seen, an excellent strike.
1895-S	NGC-64	From David L. S over S, RPM
1896	NGC-67	Pop. Of 3 Doug W. says "best business strike of this year, a gorgeous coin" Gene Edwards called this date a sleeper.
1896-S	PCGS-63 PQ	Should upgrade, a PL cameo. One of my favorite coins, from Heritage.
1897-O	PCGS-65 PQ	Frosty and pure white; Doug W. says nice, nice original white coin.
1897-S	NGC-65	Dave L. got it at Baltimore Show 1992, a favorite date
1898-S	NGC-65	Semi-PL lightly toned cameo; S/S
1899-O	PCGS-66	One of the top graded, a blazing white PL coin.
1900	NGC-65 PQ	Col. Edward says fully struck pieces seemingly non-existent. This coin is such, from a Dallas collection, rainbow toning, one of my favorites.
1900-O	NGC-66	Probably from the James Stack sale. My near top coin ever. Beautifully toned with bulls eye obverse, Jack Ehrmantraut called it an incredible example. (See article in BCCS journal).
1901-O	NGC-64	From Chris N. described in BCCS journal Summer 1992, Fall 1994. Lawrence Quarter book 2nd edition, p. 58-59.

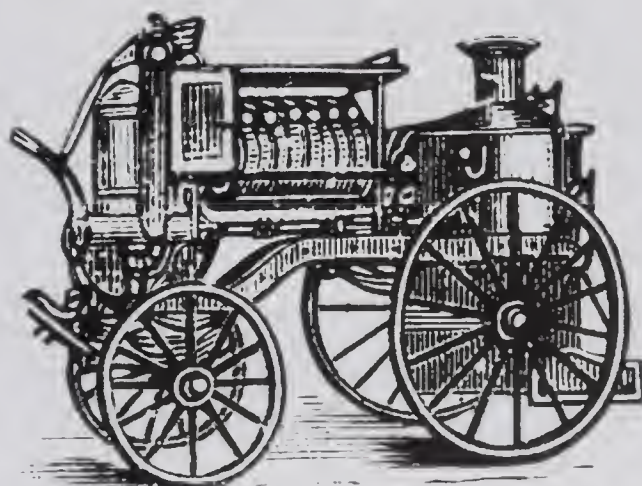
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A World-Class Collection of Barber Quarters

Continued from page 16

1903	PCGS-66	Coin originated from Norm Pullen, Edwards said full strikes so rare.
1903-O	PCGS-65	Dave L. said in 1992 this coin was rare.
1904-O	PCGS-67	Reportedly from Christie's sale of 1988 or 1989, previously ex The Gutag Brothers in the 20's. Doug W. says Marty Haber sold the coin with an 1897-S from the Emory Nichols Sale.
1905-S	PCGS-65	Should grade as a '66. I chased after this coin for ten years; Mike DeFalco got it from the owner. Bulls eye toning with rims of electric blue and red.
1907-S	NGC-65	Gorgeous toning. A difficult date to find in this mint state level
1908-D	PCGS-66	Doug W. says the best he'd ever seen and very rare.
1911	PCGS-64 PQ	Well struck in every respect.
1911-D	NGC-65	An owner of an NGC-66 previously had the coin in a PCGS—65 holder. His was inferior to mine.
1911-S	NGC-66	Ex Reed Hawn sale (Stack's 10/93), a PQ coin.
1913	PCGS-66	Ex 1991 Akers-RARCOA Sale (Lot 446), from the owner of two such graded coins, this being the best.
1913-D	PCGS-65	A PL white coin.
1915-S	PCGS-66	An RPM, in 1993 one of four top coins.

The balance of the coins in my collection are PQ with few exceptions. I always sought to get the highest quality for the grade if possible. My hope is that some BCCS members will have a similar experience as I have in collecting.



Barber Halves with the Mumps, No Viruses

By Peter Shireman, MD

Mumps is a viral disease caused by a paramyxovirus that causes typical inflammation and swelling of the parotid salivary glands located just in front of the ears. It mostly affects children and many of us have had the mumps. Fortunately, an immunization is available to prevent most cases of mumps these days, which has greatly diminished the number of cases of mumps.

In times past, people and even coins were not so lucky. Many Barber half dollars from the New Orleans Mint have an unusual pattern of marks on the face and neck of Liberty that has been termed "mumps" by David Lawrence. Certain dates are well known for mumps and include 1906, 1907, and 1908 especially, but other dates are not immune (bad pun intended). My collection includes several mint state examples with well developed mumps. Our most authoritative source of information on Barber halves, *The Complete Guide to Barber Half Dollars*, by David Lawrence, suggests that mumps is caused by die buckling. We would take this to indicate some sort of stress in the dies that caused them to become uneven. David mentions that some cases he has seen also showed clash marks, but does not draw any connection between the two.

At the Michigan State Numismatic Association coin show in Dearborn in November, 2000, I came across, and purchased a certified 1907-O half in PCGS MS 62 that provides further clues about the cause of mumps. This coin has the most severe clash marks I have ever seen on a Barber half and a bad case of the mumps. A thought came to me that the two may be related. The obverse of the coin has outlines of the eagle's wings that point downward away from the bust, and the area of mumps lines up with the eagle's head and the shield from the reverse. The reverse shows a nearly complete outline of the obverse bust particularly well seen in the stars at the top of the reverse, but also at the bottom of the reverse. The reverse shows a nearly complete outline of the obverse bust particularly well seen in the stars at the top of the reverse, but also at the bottom of the reverse. There is also a small die break at the base of the obverse.

My theory is that the mumps are a form of die clashing resulting from an image of the head and neck of the eagle and the shield transferred to the obverse die, usually without the fully developed clash marks as seen in this coin. My coin is a late die state which helps explain my theory. I am unaware of any other such description of the mumps being a form of clash marks.

Additionally, I have also looked at other Barber halves since my discovery, and have noticed a fair number have the faint outline of eagle wings on the obverse of the coin observed faintly in the luster, but without mumps on the face

Continued on next page

Barber Halves with the Mumps, No Viruses

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of Liberty. These faint outlines of the wings can even be seen on images displayed on web sites! The readers may wish to look at web site images or their own coins to see such findings. I find this whole subject quite fascinating.

We have known for some time what causes mumps in people, now I think we know what causes mumps in Barber halves.

Message From The Secretary/Treasurer

Continued from page 4

TX 13, PA 12, and FL 12. We have one member from Italy. I had one inquiry from Russia but no membership resulted and a recent inquiry from Ghana that looked like a scam. Of interest is that through the years we have had several female members, but none currently.

I hope this gives everyone an idea of where we were and where we are. Perhaps it will help serve as an incentive for more members to get involved in the Society to help maintain it's future.

Paul Reuter

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your articles submissions automatically enter you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50, second prize will be \$25, and third place will be a free BCCS one year membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date, and get your article in the mail to Russell at the address on page one.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 30TH

1906 – A Common Year, Or Is It?

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By Jack White

When one thinks of 1906 Barber coinage most collectors dismiss it as simply another year. There are no rare or even semi-key Barber coins dated 1906. Except perhaps for a slightly tough-to-find branch mint piece, the year is thought of as type only. However, experienced Barber collectors, particularly quarter collectors, find this to be untrue.

1906 was the year of two important historical events. The devastating San Francisco earthquake struck in April. The opening of the Denver mint was the other. Surprisingly the earthquake didn't have a major offset on coin collectors. No quarters were struck in San Francisco in 1906, but they also weren't produced there in 1904 or in 1910. They weren't struck in 1916, the last year of Barber coinage either, but this is more easily understood. The last year of a series often is produced in low or irregular quantities due to confusion in communication or to when to change over to the newer design or if a particular mint will strike both the old and new design. Perhaps the new dimes were not produced or shipped in time for the change over. San Francisco struck five million Barber coins in 1906 and over three million gold coins. These mintages were not overly high or low in comparison to outputs in this era.

Dimes produced in 1906 are far from common type coins with the exception of low grade Philadelphia pieces. The New Orleans and San Francisco dime in mid-grade and above are elusive. The newly opened Denver mint produced roughly one in eight dimes coined in 1906. These are generally available in all grades. They are much less common than the "type" 1908-D and 1911-D through 1914-D issues but are easier to find than the 1907-D and the tough 1909-D.

Quarters are where the sleeper 1906 Barber coins exist. Philadelphia produced their lowest output of the decade in 1906. In fact, the fifteen year span between 1895-1909 saw 1906 turn out the lowest mintage of the Philadelphia quarter. Only 1905 had a lower total production of quarters in the 1900-1909 decade than 1906. Total mintage from the three mints (San Francisco did not coin quarters) was less than nine million. The New Orleans quarter is the hardest to find in mid-grade and above, but the Philly and Denver issues are very elusive. All three are sleepers in grades of Fine and above.

Half dollars of 1906 tend to follow dimes in terms of availability. New Orleans and San Francisco pieces are available with patience. The Philly and Denver mint coins are basically type pieces. The brand new Denver mint coined 50% more halves than any other mint - and nearly 40% of the total 1906 production.

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